

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Worrell et al.

Serial Number:

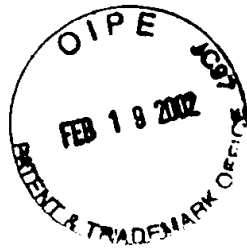
09/495257

Filed:

1/31/00

For:

**PROCESS FOR PRODUCING SANDED
ELASTIC FABRICS, AND FABRICS
MADE THEREFROM**



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Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: Torres Velazquez, Norca Liz

Request for Reconsideration

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

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Sir:

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejection.

As noted previously, Applicants' independent Claim 7 recites a fabric made by a process involving contacting a surface of an elastic fabric with a microfinishing film to abrade the fibers on at least one surface of the fabric. There is (1) no disclosure or suggestion in the Nielsen reference of elastic fabrics at all and (2) no disclosure or suggestion of the use of a microfinishing film as described by Applicants. Therefore, the Nielsen reference fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

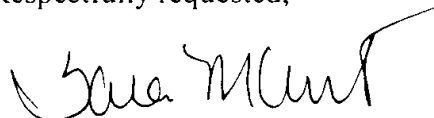
Claims 8-21 all describe a sanded elastic fabric having a hairiness value of less than about 0.1 across its width when measured with a Zweigle T690 Hairiness Tester. As noted above, the Nielsen reference never mentions the production of elastic fabrics as defined by the Applicants, and fails to disclose or suggest the production of fabrics with low hairiness levels. The Examiner has

failed to identify any such teaching or suggestion of these features within the cited references; therefore, no prima facie case of obviousness has been made, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Likewise, the Muramoto reference fails to disclose or suggest an elastic fabric that has been sanded, (and in fact teaches away from sanded fabrics) much less an elastic fabric that has been sanded by a microfinishing film. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the pending rejections be withdrawn and the case passed to immediate issuance.

Respectfully requested,

January 24, 2002



Sara M. Current
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration Number 38,057
Telephone: (864) 503-1596

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, on January 23, 2002, Petition to Revive, CPA, along with a postcard receipt.



Melanie Lucas – Legal Department